

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

Syrian Arab Republic

The Syrian Arab Republic is situated at the eastern end of the Mediterranean Sea. It is bounded to the north by Turkey, to the east by Iraq, to the south by Jordan and Palestine and to the west by Lebanon and the Mediterranean Sea. The land area is about 185,000 km². The capital city is Damascus. The population amounts to 16 million.



FIG. 1.- Syrian Arab Republic.

The climate is hot and dry in summer and mild in winter. The coastal plain is sandy and rocky areas are mostly found in the northern side. Mountains are located in the west. The bottom of the territorial waters is free from natural obstructions, except for some wrecks. There is heavy shipping traffic through the main ports and their approaches: Latakia, Tartus, Baniyas. The total merchant tonnage is of 374,935 GRT.

Historically Syria came under Turkish domination from the start of the 16th century to 1917 then under French domination from 1921 to 1946. Independence was proclaimed on 17 April 1946. The Syrian Arab Republic is a constitutional monarchy and the President is Mr. Hafez AL ASSAD.

Hydrographic Service

The Hydrographic Service is a new specialized department of the General Directorate of Ports and it is still in an initial stage. The Ministry of Transport will improve it with modern equipment.